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The Indiana Jewish

Post & Opinion

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THEY MEAN BUSINESS — This recent picture of Fatah members marching in Gaza City carrying mortar rockets shows how far the current intifada has gone beyond stone-throwing.



IN CHARGE OF OUR MEMORIES — These eight grandchildren of Holocaust survivors — Keepers of the Flame, the Third Generation — joined in a choral reading at a Minnesota synagogue

Egyptian envoy urges peace moves in Israel

JERUSALEM — Urging peace, yet blaming Israel for the lack of it, Egypt sent an envoy to hold talks with leaders on both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

As Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman began his mission, Israel's army said it foiled a Palestinian attempt to infiltrate the Jewish settlement of Alei Sinai in the Gaza Strip, capturing two gunmen.

Suleiman met Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and told them Egypt wanted to help calm the winds of war and planned to meet also with Yasser Arafat.

Israeli Army Radio quoted Ben-Eliezer as telling the envoy Arafat "must change a policy of terror" before Israel could take seriously any reforms he pursues in the Palestinian Authority.

Palestinian officials said Suleiman would see Arafat in the West Bank city of Ramallah later in the day.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher told reporters in Egypt that Israeli policies had created the current standoff.

Israeli forces reoccupied seven West Bank cities after back-to-back Palestinian suicide bombings killed 26 Israelis two weeks ago and imposed curfews on some 700,000 residents.

Israel's army chief Shaul Mofaz, who briefed the cabinet for the last time on Sunday before he steps down this week, told a newspaper it could be months before the army quits the cities.

Arafat, meanwhile, faced an internal challenge from Palestinian security chiefs over his dismissal of Jibril Rajoub, head of the Preventive Security Service in the West Bank.

Palestinian sources said more than 100 top security officials refused in a rancorous meeting in Ramallah on Saturday to accept Arafat's replacement of Rajoub with Zuhair Manasra, governor of the West Bank city of Jenin.

The United States, which has said Arafat's administration is tainted by terrorism, has urged Palestinians to remove him in elections in January. Arafat is widely expected to be re-elected.

At least 1,436 Palestinians, including a 10-year-old boy who was hit by Israeli gunfire in the West Bank on June 29 and died of his wounds on Sunday, and 548 Israelis have been killed since the uprising began in September 2000 after peace talks stalled.

Prime Minister Sharon said Israel had made progress combating Palestinian terror attacks.

Rona's Roving Reports

Kids' fun night a break for parents

By RONA TRACHTENBERG Parents' night out

On Saturday, July 13, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., parents can indulge themselves with a night of privacy as the JCC pampers their children during a fun and safe evening.

Children age 3 and older love Saturday nights at the JCC because they can count on an evening of special activities, movies, swimming, snacks and dinner.

Please pack your child's pillow, swimsuit and towel.

The program costs \$15 for JCC members and \$18 for non-members.

Walk-ins will be ac-

cepted, but reservations are preferred, by calling 251-9467, ext. 282.

Yiddish club picnic

On Sunday, July 14, 1 p.m., the Jules Dorfman Yiddish Club is hosting its annual summer indoor picnic led by Fay Dorfman and Mike Blain. The \$5 fee includes singing Yiddish songs, listening to Yiddish stories, viewing the video "Bridge of Books" and eating kosher BBQ chicken, potato salad, salad with dressing, coffee, tea and dessert.

Please RSVP by calling to Naomi Tropp at 251-9467 ext. 227.

JCC kids golf camp

On Monday, July 15, students in grades three through eight can learn golf at JCC Camp.

During this five-day intensive program, golf professionals will teach the basics to beginners and help the more experienced brush up on their skills.

The program takes place at the Golf Club of Indiana, in Lebanon, where there will be time for games each day.

The fee is \$270 for JCC members and \$360 for non-members.

To register or for more information, please call Rod Hofts at 251-9467 ext. 219

Camp Gan Israel

From July 15 to Aug. 8, Camp Gan Israel will run its second session of day camp.

This project of Lubavitch of Indiana will take place at Congregation B'nai Torah and the Hasten Hebrew Academy.

This year's theme "busy Izzy on the road" centers on travelling through Jewish life. Each week the campers go to a new "location" to learn about Judaism with fun games.

The Tiny Tots Toddler Program is a half-day experience (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) for 2-

and 3-year-olds, who will enjoy fun activities in a supportive environment. HHAI teachers Paula Fogle and Irina Kredenko will offer individual and group attention.

The Camper Program is a full-day experience (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) for children ages 4 to 9 that includes sports, gymnastics, aquatics, crafts, drama, music, cookie baking, challah making and Judaic activities.

Howie Seigal will be playing his guitar and leading the group in singing Israeli songs.

This year there is a new double sports activity with Kelly Alting leading indoor sports and Elliot Knowls leading outdoor sports. Also, there will be a "funshop" where campers can choose which fun projects (science, jewelry-making) they want to do.

The Extended Program allows parents to drop off their children earlier (at 7:30 a.m.) and pick them up later (at 5:30 p.m.) for an additional fee.

Normally, however, Friday programs end early for Shabbat, at 2:30 p.m.

Please call Rabbi Menachem Schusterman at 251-9152 for an application

and more information.

Jewish business network meets

On Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m., the Jewish Business Network (JBN) will meet at the JCC. Guest speaker is Marvin Hershenson, Director of Human Resources Training & Development Simon Property Group.

The goal of the newly created JBN is to strengthen commercial and cultural ties within the Jewish business community.

Tisha B'Av

On Wednesday, July 17, 8:06 p.m., many Jews in Indianapolis will begin observing Tisha B'Av by fasting and hearing Aicha read out loud in synagogue.

Services will take place at: Cong. B'nai Torah - July 17 at 8 p.m.; July 18 at 7 a.m. and 7:40 p.m.

Cong. Etz Chaim - July 17 at 8 p.m.; July 18 at 7 a.m. and 7:40 p.m.

Cong. Shaarey Tefilla - July 17 at 8 p.m.; July 18 at 7 a.m.

The fast day continues throughout Thursday, July 18, until 8:52 p.m.

JCC night at the Fever

On Wednesday, July 17, 4:30 p.m., the JCC is hosting a special night at Conesco Fieldhouse as the Indiana Fever plays the Los Angeles Sparks.

From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. JCC

Continued on page 3

Candlelighting
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July 12 • 7:55 p.m.
July 19 • 7:51 p.m.
July 26 • 7:46 p.m.

Marsh Presents

Butterflies

May 11 - September 2, 2002

Be naturally inspired by the unique beauty, color, and grace of the butterfly as thousands make their home inside the Hilbert Conservatory at White River Gardens. Become a part of their enchanting world as these delicate creatures surround you as they search for nectar among the flowers in this tropical paradise.

As a perfect complement to the opening of "Marsh presents Butterflies," an art show titled, "Indiana: Landscapes of Color" will be on exhibit in the Schaefer

Rotunda and Grand Hallway. This unique art beautifully portrays the landscape of the Hoosier state as seen through the eyes of artist John J. Domont of Domont Studio Gallery.



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The Conservatory shows are supported through an endowment funded by the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, Inc. White River Gardens is supported by the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the City of Indianapolis. Support is also provided from the Central Indiana Community Foundation, the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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Papo issues annual report RONA

Federation Director Michael Papo reported to the community at the recent annual meeting that the drive to aid Israel is off to a tremendous start due to the very generous lead gift of 41 million by Gene and Marilyn Glick toward the goal of \$3 million.

"In Indiana, our support is even greater than the national average due in part to the excellent work over the years by Marcia Goldstone" at the Jewish Community Relations Center, Papo reported.

"Of course it is not just the Federation that is concerned with Israel," he noted. "This past year Congregation Beth El Zedeck, thanks to the generosity of Jeff Smulyan, sponsored a speech by former Prime Minister Ehud Barak which was attended by 1,400 people including the Governor of Indiana and other dignitaries.

He reported that the Federation had seen a very good year with its 2001 campaign "led so ably by Brad Bell, Sid Laikin, Sandy Levinson, Nancy Glazer and Ruthie Cannon hit an all time high of close to \$4.8 million. With these kinds of campaign results, Indianapolis remains one of the top three cities in terms of per capita giving."

"Our allocation process this year led by Diane Lutz and Don Katz worked hard to make the best and fairest allocation recommendations within the amount of available dollars.

"Our Endowment fund co-chaired by Dick Leventhal and Gigi Marks continues to help this community in so many ways..."

He included the guarantee to the United Way that sufficient funds would be available

to complete the new JCC Pool complex, which laid the foundation for a matching \$1 million from United Way.

"Many thanks to David Kleiman for his work with the Lilly Foundation and United Way which helped provide the first 2.5 million dollars for this project, to Marks Levy and Elliot Gold for their work on the plans, to Laura Rich for her invaluable role as fund raiser, to Sid and Lois Eskenazi for their generous naming gift and to Katy Cantor and Ira Jaffe for their overall leadership."

He praised the Bureau of Jewish Education under the leadership of Dwayne Isaacs and Ora Leivant as continuing to provide excellent education for our children and to be a model of how an agency can live very comfortably within its budget.

The Hasten Hebrew Academy under the leadership of Hart Hasten and Rabbi Nemetsky continues to provide traditional Jewish day school education along with a very solid core of secular studies.

He noted that Hooverwood and Park Regency provides top quality service to our seniors.

Jacobs Home, a project of the Jewish Federation, under the leadership of Karen Cohen and Diane Steiner, provides a supportive living environment for four Developmentally Disabled Adults. "This is a program and service that is not well known in the community, but it provides an absolutely indispensable service to the individuals and families that benefit from it," Papo said.

Issues that have come up this

Continued from page 2
fans can shoot hoops and run around the Conesco court during pre-game court-time.

From 6 to 7 p.m., there will be a pre-game carnival for the kids with open concession stands.

The formal game begins at 7 p.m.

Discounted (\$3 off) tickets for JCC participants will cost only \$9 and can be purchased by going to www.consecofieldhouse.com website and clicking on the "JCC night" heading. Enter the password "JCC1" to receive the discount and buy as many tickets as you like.

Hope to see you there!

Correction

I respectfully apologize to the Fogle family for inadvertently neglecting to report Aaron's bar mitzvah in the list of 2002 mazel tovs from my column two weeks ago.

Aaron is the son of Ned and Paula Fogle. His maternal grandmother is Charlotte Epstein.

Mazel tov

- Michael Isaac Carson was born on April 29 to Marcy and Joshua Carson.
- Jeannie and Dr. Mark Stein are the proud grandparents of Samuel Isaac Strent, born on May 5.
- Lillian Fox on her 95th birthday.
- Francis Kaufman on her 85th birthday.
- Toby Blickman on her 80th birthday.
- Jennifer Sobel, daughter of Grace and Stuart Sobel, got married to Ravi Khemchandani on May 4.
- Leslie Holloway on her marriage to Joseph Leffel on May 5.
- Cathy Courter on her marriage to Mark Gebrow on May 11.
- Sharon Alliss on her marriage to Marc Elfenbaum on May 18.
- Blair Lawrence Arey, son of IHC rabbi's secretary Enid Arey, who will marry Anne Linda Grosvenor on July 13 in Memphis, Tenn.

- Anita and Dr. David Silver upon their 60th wedding anniversary.
- Four Indianapolis Jewish high school graduates won scholarships from the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). Rose Jackson, Ellen Pactor, Miles Roger and Rebecca Schiffmiller are active in Jewish life and have excellent academic records.
- Rachel Modiano received the Interfaith Alliance Indianapolis 2002 Hamilton Niss Memorial Award.
- Offer Korin upon being elected president of the JCRC.

Egyptian cover-up

JewishIndy.com published a DEBKAF file report that states "Hesham Mohamed Hadayat, the shooter at the EL AL counter at Los Angeles Airport, was indeed a Muslim extremist, aligned with the Egyptian Jihad and associated with Egyptian suicide pilot Batouty who

Continued on page 4



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STARTS AUGUST 23RD!

Papo

Continued from page 3
year on which Federation has spent some time on include:

"The issue of agency deficits, the cost of insurance, the cost of the food program at Park Regency, and increased programs of our elderly citizens

Dick Leventhal chaired an ad hoc committee that reviewed the history of agency deficits and came up with a set of proposals that will hopefully keep such deficits from occurring in the future.

Special thanks go to Katy Cantor and Ira Jaffee for their leadership in establishing policies to keep the JCC operating within its budget," he said.

The issue of the food costs at Park Regency is well on its way to be resolved, Papo said. "Thanks to the leadership of Marc Penner, Hooverwood is exploring the possibility of providing food service to residents of Park Regency."

"Thanks to a most generous grant from Sara and Al Reuben, Elderlink has become a reality. Lori Moss will serve as director of this new program. We look forward to seeing the fruits of

this program in their months to come.

Papo noted that Laura Rich, who has done much volunteer work for the Federation, will now be on staff as a half-time worker in resource development.

The tasks ahead, he said, include:

Finish our 2002 campaign.
Finish our Israel Now/Argentina Now Emergency Campaign,

Finish the campaign for the JCC pool,

To start the 2003 campaign,
Go through our allocation process, and

Continue to offer Israel the political, financial, moral and emotional support that she needs during these difficult days.

RONA

Continued from page 3
crashed Egyptair 990 in 1999 killing all 217 aboard.

"During his 10 years in the United States, Hadayat maintained undercover links to the same Jihad cell in Brooklyn, N.Y., as the 'blind sheikh' Abdul Rahim Rahman and Ramzi Yousef. Both are doing time for perpetrating the first attack on the New York World Trade Center in 1993. Other sources affirm that Hadayat, who lived in Irvine, Calif., south of Los Angeles, knew Batouty well, the report

Continued on page 5

JCC hosts film festival

The Jewish Community Center will host the Indiana Film & Video Festival, which recognizes and awards the works of independent film and video makers in and from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio.

The Indiana Film Society seeks to provide incentives for the midwestern film and video maker to create new, exciting works that explore the art of these visual media. The competition is open to independent film and video makers, professional, amateur and student artists. Independent works are films or videos in which the producer/director had artistic and editorial control of the project.

Past films and videos represent a mix of style and subject matter including animation, music videos, experimental works, documentaries and fiction. In the past 11 years more than 600 film and video makers have competed for Indiana Film Society cash awards and honors.

The Indy Award was designed by Mark Bradley of Young & Laramore in Indianapolis. The Indy Award will be presented to winning entrants along with cash and other awards. This year's awards are made possible by Eastman Kodak and the Indiana Film Society members and sponsors. These works have been creative, sometimes offbeat and always original. Festival winners will be featured on the PBS series THE INDY'S.

The Festival's July 20 reception will be held at the Jewish Community Center. The program will begin with hors d'oeuvres and beverages being served at 7 p.m. The awards presentation and the screening of each winner will begin at 8 p.m.

Following the final screening, viewers may vote for The Peoples Choice Award. It will then be presented along with the Best of Show. Admission is \$10 for IFS members, \$15 for non-members.

For information or questions call the Indiana Film Society at 317-299-1800 or the festival chair Terrence Black at 923-4484

Congratulations to the following 2002 INDY Award winners:

THE BOOK AND THE ROSE

Jeffery J. Bemiss, director
Set in 1942. When John Barnes acquires an old book filled with intriguing handwritten notes, he begins a correspondence with its previous owner and it promises to be more than just an exchange of letters. Based on the popular short story by Max Lucado about two people brought together by the timeless workings of fate.

JUNK DRAWER

Javier Reyna
Junk drawer comes from the writer, Daniel Forsee's personal experience as a special education teacher. He clearly conveys the frustrated feelings of low paid teachers on the verge of burnout. In many situations, the hope of saving just one child is the only thing keeping these teachers going.

CODA

Kitao Sakurai
A CODA is the final passage or movement in a musical composition. The story unfolds visually as if it were a piece of music. The experimental student film deals with the beat-

ing of a classmate at a prestigious male boarding school.

THE BIG GAME

Joseph Johnson

The big game originated as an entry for comic book magazine contest. Obsessed with a comic book character, a "big" lottery winner fantasizes about becoming a superhero.

REFRIGERATOR MOTHERS

J J Hanley

From the 1950's through the 1970's, children with autism were widely considered to be the victims of inadequate parenting. Influenced by psychologist Bruno Bettelheim, mental health professionals claimed that autism was the product of mothers who were cold, distant, rejecting and unable to "bond properly." They were labeled "refrigerator Mothers."

HOME VIDEO: THE MAKING OF MAD MATT

Scott Rice

Scott Rice began making home movies at the age of 12. He used popular visual styles of the 80's and 90's found in film and television and created 50 episodes of "Mad Matt." In this narrative short film we not only see the emergence of a talented filmmaker but we watch the Rice family children and friends perform outrageous stunts while growing up. "Home Video" is funny and touching.

Critic's Corner

NOTE TO READERS:

Entertainment critic Charles Epstein is on the other side of the footlights for a couple weeks acting the role of Mr. Mushnik, the Jewish florist, in "Little Shop of Horrors" at the Shawnee Theater in Bloomfield, Ind., and will follow that by directing "Run for Your Wife" at the same theater. He'll resume his column thereafter.



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Jacob Borinstein to become bar mitzvah

On Saturday morning, July 13, Jacob Isaac Borinstein, son of Chuck and Lee Borinstein, will be honored as a bar mitzvah by leading the service, as well as reading from the Torah and Haftarah at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla.

Jacob explained that his Torah portion Devarim is "the beginning of Moses' speech when he tells the people the people of Israel the history of what they had been through, how he set up judges among the tribes to better settle disputes, and who had possession of the conquered land. This was also when he said that Caleb and Joshua were allowed to go to the Promised Land.

"My Haftarah is Isaiah's dream or vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem. He says that they messed up, but there is still hope by learning from their mistakes. The three things he encourages are following moral law and commandments, giving tzedakah and doing mitzvot."

Jacob is proud that he mas-



Jacob Borinstein

tered the entire service "well enough to say it in front of everyone," learned trope and mastered presenting all of his aliyot from the Torah, which is a little different than what we normally see in the Chumash.

"The Haftarah is easy in comparison."

"After my bar mitzvah I will finally be counted as part of the Jewish community, as I attend minyan and take a more active role in services."

The most positive influence

in Jacob's life is Boy Scout troop #73 leader Mr. Michael White because "he encourages leadership skills and encourages me to be the best that I can be. He also helps make scouting fun and has helped me towards earning several merit badges."

Learning is very important to Jacob, who has set his future sights on entering the Air Force and then studying aeronautics in college. He hopes to be able to work abroad when he's older. He has a head start with languages as he continues to study Japanese and Hebrew when he enters eighth grade at Northview Middle School this fall.

Jacob has accumulated an impressive amount of awards: a "Personal Best Award" from school, "1st Rating" from ISSMA music competition, "Edwin S. Roger Memorial Award" and "BJE Board of Director's Scholarship" from Bureau of Jewish Education, Indianapolis.

For fun, Jacob enjoys

rollerblading, baseball, hanging out with friends, watching movies, and playing the baritone with his dad. Jacob is

RONA

Continued from page 4

said. "Hadayat sent his family on ahead to Egypt the week before he struck the EL AL ticket line on his 42nd birthday."

The story goes on to say that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak knew his nationals were responsible for the 1999 plane crash, but persuaded President Clinton to suppress the information.

Now Egyptian officials are again "playing dumb" as they try to cover-up the fact that their citizens are involved in this and other al Qaeda terrorist activities, such as the September 11 tragedy, the report says.

DEBKAFfile believes that

looking forward to seeing his Aunt Treva and Uncle Harvey Silverman from New York at his bar mitzvah.

this act "raises the question of how many sleeper cells the Egyptian Jihad, al Qaeda's primary operational arm, maintains in American cities."

LAX shooting

Since the name of this newspaper contains the word "opinion" I'm going to state my opinion about the EL AL shooting in California.

With today's anti-Semitism and terrorism, I'd recommend that EL AL create a special situation where they can have its own hangar and its own isolated wing of an airport. One should be on the East Coast and one on the West Coast.

Court has spoken on vouchers; JCRC not happy about it

By ED STATTMANN

Vouchers that allow government to pay for religious education are more destructive than beneficial, says Henry Efroymsen, chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council's legislative committee.

Efroymsen says the JCRC disagrees with last week's 5-4 decision about vouchers by the U.S. Supreme Court, but recognizes it now stands as law.

He says the public school system has been a "tremendously successful vehicle for the assimilation of and acceptance of the Jewish community in the United States and we believe that the voucher concept is a threat to public education."

Because the nation's highest court has spoken, Efroymsen says, the JCRC may need to revisit the issue, although the council believes there is insufficient credible data to suggest that private schools provide a better education than public schools.

There is also a concern, he says, that the voucher program will remove needed funding from the public school

systems and will take the best students out of the public school systems and relegate the public school systems to an education system simply for the have-nots.

"The Jewish Community Relations Council believes that the best answer to any perceived concerns over public education is to increase efforts to improve public education rather than harm it through the voucher concept," he says.

While there are many fine private schools, Efroymsen says, the vast majority of vouchers have been used to pay for vouchers at Catholic schools "and there is absolutely no data to support the conclusion that these schools render any better education than the public school system or that students perform better in the Catholic schools."

Efroymsen says he and the JCRC recognize there is a conflict of opinions within the Jewish community, with many Orthodox schools ready to welcome voucher funding.

"If we were just talking about children going to schools not affiliated with churches,

the issue would be different," he says.

Peter Weisz, speaking on behalf of the Hasteen Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis, welcomed the high court's decision as a victory for school choice and one that will likely see the opening of some doors to that purpose, for example in the next legislative session.

"The winners in the long run will be our children, our society, even our civilization," Weisz said. "The short-run losers will be the teachers' unions." But he said even those unions will benefit in the long run as the decision forces public schools to be more competitive and to include the teaching of values as well as the basics.

While the Academy has always recognized that public schools have a place on the playing field, Weisz said, speaking for himself "There are advanced countries that don't have public schools and they seem to do a better job of educating their children than we do in America." Reflecting on another recent court decision, Weisz said he person-

ally is glad that the flag pledge contains the phrase "under God." "There are many parents, and I am one, who would like to make sure God is mentioned in the classroom environment."

A statement on the website of the Indianapolis-based Milton and Rose Friedman Foundation called the decision "a great day for the children of America," quoting Milton Friedman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist who is credited with coming up with the concept of school vouchers. The foundation staff is headed by Gordon St. Angelo, a former Indiana Democratic state chairman.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Nonpublic Education Association noted that many Orthodox schools and organizations support vouchers and some are members of the Council of American Private Education, which supports them.

As examples, he named Solomon Schechter Day School and Agudas Israel.

Tebbe said, "We're in favor of giving parents choices in education," and he said vouchers can

do that.

Both Jewish justices on the Supreme Court voted in the minority of the 5-4 decision by which the court declared it can be constitutional for public money to underwrite tuition at religious schools.

The vote upheld Cleveland's school-voucher program and, by extension, similar programs across the country. Such programs are valid, the majority said, as long as parents can choose among a range of secular and religious schools.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote that the Ohio system was neutral as to religion, targeting benefits to a "wide spectrum of individuals, defined only by financial need and residence in a particular school district."

Therefore, he wrote, the system does not offend the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which mandates a separation of church and state.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer joined Justice John Paul Stevens and Justice David H. Souter in dissent.

Jewish Post & Opinion

Let's get our speakers back

The days when our national Jewish organizations would send noted speakers throughout the American Jewish community have long gone but the void in knowledge of national and world Jewish affairs, problems and needs, requires being filled and perhaps one of our Jewish grant organizations may take on this obligation.

As at present there is no relationship between our national organizations, even the B'nai B'rith or the American Jewish Committee to name several, and most members of local U.S. Jewish communities.

The void should be and can be filled.

Large audiences could be drawn to our Jewish Community Centers and congregation auditoriums and the mutuality as between our local and national Jewish organizations might thus be restored.

But our national Jewish organizations, all without exception, have long passed the day when they required widespread local support and no longer are involved in seeking local cooperation and new constituencies.

The void has not been filled and in addition local Jewish communities no longer feel the need to bring national Jewish figures to address local audiences.

But there is a way.

Today there are a number of large Jewish grant organizations whose principal area of helpfulness is in filling Jewish needs. One or more of them could be persuaded to take on this obligation and in the process not only make their name a byword in the national Jewish community but at the same time serve the goal they have assumed in building and spreading Jewish knowledge.

One or several of them could get involved in the process as they provide for themselves the recognition in the Jewish community they would deserve. And recognition they would get — not only in full but year after year as the speakers they provide addressed large audiences in our Jewish Community Centers and congregations.

So how do we fill the need?

This editorial has launched the idea so now our Jewish leadership nationally should take on the obligation and in the long run both they and the American Jewish community will be served in a way that fits well in their and the Jewish community's goals.

For a fit reward

Alongside our effort to promote attendance at Sabbath services is another project we believe The Post and Opinion should be urging the American Jewish community to launch — and that is a relatively much easier one that could be successful. It is to fill the gymnasiums of our Jewish Community Centers with men and women exercising on the various pieces of athletic equipment.

The reward to the individual is so great that such a wide effort in the American Jewish community should be launched and not only would have wide support but would grow by leaps and bounds as the those who are persuaded to join the ranks spread the news of their newly-acquired athletic fitness and awareness of the health benefits.

Editor's Chair

The Post and Opinion "made" the New York Times recently but not really so. A quotation from a review we published of the production of Thomas Mann's "Death in Venice" at Manhattan's Ensemble Theater was published in an advertisement for the production in the Times. Also quoted

were reviews from Variety, the Village Voice, and several other media.

Our quotation was from our Irene Backalenick who stated that the show was "a magnificent, memorable theatrical work rarely matched on-or-off Broadway or anywhere else for that matter."

Hatecrimes trial begins in Boston

BOSTON — What began as a simple counterfeiting investigation has led to the trial of a couple prosecutors say are white supremacists who were planning to blow up Jewish or black landmarks here.

Federal prosecutors say the pair wanted to set off a "racial holy war."

Leo Felton, the son of civil rights activists, and Erica Chase, his pen pal while he was in prison, were arrested in April 2001 on counterfeiting charges.

A police search of their apartment turned up bomb-making materials, including a 50-pound bag of ammonium nitrate — the same type of fertilizer used by Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

Authorities also found how-to books on terrorism, newspaper clippings of an upcoming ceremony at the New England Holocaust Memorial and photos of a bridge named after a late Jewish leader.

Prosecutors said they could not pinpoint an intended target, but they alleged the two were plotting to "blow up some structure, building, property or memorial associated with Jewish and/or African-Americans, thereby advancing the defendants' anti-Semitic and white-supremacist goals and igniting a 'racial holy war.'"

Felton and Chase have both pleaded innocent to charges of conspiracy, making counterfeit bills, obstruction of justice, firearms and explosives violations. Felton is also charged with bank robbery and conspiracy to commit bank robbery and could get life in prison if convicted. Chase faces a maximum of 35 years.

Chase told investigators she and Felton never intended to blow up any target but were collecting materials to build a bomb they could detonate on a beach for "entertainment."

"These were not any kind of terrorist plans in

any way at all," she said, according to court documents.

Felton's lawyer, Lenore Glaser, said authorities had no evidence that Felton and Chase planned to bomb an ethnic target.

Felton, 31, was born in Silver Spring, Md., the son of a white mother and a black father who were civil rights activists. After his parents divorced, he lived with his mother and her female partner.

He became involved in white supremacist groups while in a New Jersey prison, where he served a three-to-nine-year sentence for attempted murder in the beating of a black taxi driver. Prosecutors allege he is a member of the White Order of Thule.

In a letter to a Boston newspaper, Felton blamed his parents and their interracial marriage for his troubles. He said the commingling of black and white blood was "evil."

The 6-foot-7 Felton sports an assortment of racist tattoos; the words "Skin" and "Head" are tattooed on his shaven head.

Chase, 22, knew Felton's cellmate and began writing to Felton in prison in April 2000.

After his release, Felton lived briefly with a woman he had married while he was in prison. Three months later, he moved to Boston to live with Chase.

Chase, who graduated from Nauset High School on Cape Cod, had returned to Massachusetts from Indiana using counterfeit money Felton allegedly made on his computer.

She met Felton for the first time in person in April 2001. Ten days later, they were arrested after Chase tried to pass the counterfeit \$20. Robert Leikind, director of the Anti-Defamation League, said news of the alleged plot frightened the Jewish community. "We shouldn't underestimate the seriousness of the charges," he said. "These are profoundly serious charges."

How To Kill A Business In Ten Easy Steps

1. Don't advertise. Just pretend everybody knows what you have to offer.
2. Don't advertise. Tell yourself you just don't have the time to spend thinking about promoting your business.
3. Don't advertise. Just assume everybody knows what you sell.
4. Don't advertise. Convince yourself that you've been in business so long customers will automatically come to you.
5. Don't advertise. Forget that there are new potential customers who would do business with you if they were urged to do so.
6. Don't advertise. Forget that you have competition trying to attract your customers away from you.
7. Don't advertise. Tell yourself it costs too much to advertise and that you don't get enough out of it.
8. Don't advertise. Overlook the fact that advertising is an investment in selling — not an expense.
9. Don't advertise. Be sure not provide an adequate advertising budget for business.
10. Don't advertise. Forget that you have to keep reminding your established customers that you appreciate their business.

You decide... it's your business in good times or bad.

LA attack survivors tell Israelis how it was

TEL AVIV — El Al put humanitarian conditions ahead of sabbath-keeping by flying home Israelis who had been at the Los Angeles airport when an Egyptian opened fire.

After Hesham Muhammad Hadayet shot about 10 bullets, two El Al security guards and a bystander struggled with him. One of the security guards, Haim Sapir, shot the terrorist dead.

Arye Golan, a passenger who helped subdue the gunman, accused police and rescue personnel of reacting too slowly to the attack.

Golan said he pounced on the gunman after he began firing, as Sapir ran from his office "and shot him as we struggled," killing him.

"It was a big miracle I wasn't hurt," Golan said.

Asked about how quickly the police responded, Golan replied: "They were a little slow to react. They could have been better."

Golan also felt that rescue personnel were slow to treat the wounded. He felt that Ya'akov Aminov, a 46-year-old father of eight, and one of two people killed by the gunman, could have been saved.

Another passenger deplored the absence of police as the trouble began.

"If it hadn't been for the El Al guards, the outcome would have been much, much worse," the passenger said.

The waiting airport crowd mixed their welcomes for the returnees with sorrow for Ya'acov Aminov, 47, and El Al ground stewardess Vicky Chen, who were killed in the

attack, and for the wounded.

Maya Peretz, 27, a Los Angeles resident, said when she heard the bullets ring out in the hall, she jumped to the floor and protected her baby with her own body and her husband did the same for her and the baby.

The decision for El Al to fly on the sabbath, a decision which helped trigger the disintegration of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's first government in 1977, was a necessary one, Amos Shapira, El Al's director-general, told reporters. He El Al gave everyone the option of continuing the flight or staying at a local hotel.

Shapira said 41 passengers slated for the Thursday flight elected to stay in Los Angeles over Shabbat.

Peace moves

Continued from page 1

But "deep problems" remain, the Israeli leader added in remarks hours after Israeli forces captured the Palestinian infiltrators in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli forces could remain in Palestinian areas for up to one year, until Israel finishes fencing off the West Bank from Israel, a senior security official said. Until the fence is completed, an Israeli presence in Palestinian towns and cities would be critical for preventing attacks, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Israeli official said that in all, some 1,800 Palestinians suspected of links to terrorism were being held by the army and the Shin Bet security service.

Since the latest operation began, the army has arrested more than 300 suspected militants, and about half were on Israel's wanted list, said Ben-Eliezer. Ten would-be suicide bombers were among those detained, and 14 bombmaking laboratories were discovered, he said.

An earlier operation, Israel's Defensive Shield which began March 29 and lasted six weeks, netted 1,047 members of militant groups and 376 members of Palestinian security services allegedly involved in attacks against Israelis, the Israeli security official said.

The current operation has kept hundreds of thousands of

Palestinians confined to their homes, and while curfews have been relaxed a bit in recent days, Israeli authorities acknowledge that ordinary Palestinians are facing difficult living conditions.

"At this time, our access to Palestinian cities is necessary to prevent terrorism," Mofaz told the Cabinet meeting, according to a briefing given by Cabinet Secretary Gideon Saar. But Mofaz added, "we must do everything in our power economically to relieve the Palestinian population."

In another development, Israel's Cabinet also confirmed the appointment of Sharon's foreign policy adviser, Daniel Ayalon, as ambassador to the United States. The former ambassador, David Ivry, left his post in mid-April.

On Saturday, a Palestinian mother and her 2-year-old daughter were killed by machine gun fire from an Israeli tank while traveling in a taxi in central Gaza, according to a spokesman for al-Aqsa hospital in Deir Balah.

The Israel army said Sunday that an initial investigation "found that early in the morning near Netzarim, light weapons were fired after an army force identified suspicious figures." It said the army is checking whether two female Palestinian civilians were injured from the gunfire.

Lucky 13 — the Sephardic mixer

By RONA TRACHTENBERG
Staff writer

During Memorial Day weekend, more than 300 Jewish singles gathered in Miami's South Beach for the 13th annual North American Young Adult Convention sponsored by the Sephardic Educational Center (SEC), in cooperation with the American Sephardic Federation and the South Florida Sephardic Communities.

The Marco Polo Hotel was host to Iranian Jews from Los Angeles, Syrian Jews from New York, Moroccan Jews from Canada, Latino Jews from Miami, with a smattering of Turkish, Greek, Lebanese and Iraqi Jews from the rest of the United States. The goal of the convention was to create a gathering in a Sephardic atmosphere of warmth, tolerance and unity.

Many of the singles, however, attended with the sole intention of finding a Jewish Sephardic spouse. But Tamar David, the lone representative from Indiana, went "without any expectations and wasn't disappointed." She described her experience with much enthusiasm.

"The weather cooperated and the local volunteer staff was superb," began the owner/manager of the only kosher restaurant in Indiana, who joked that one of her reasons for attending was to be able to eat kosher food that she didn't have to cook herself.

"The other reason was to be surrounded by people who were Jewish, Sephardic and single. One of the first people I met at registration was Dr. Marc E. Schweitzer, an Ashkenazi volunteer from Florida. I was impressed with the way he and the other volunteers went out of their way to bring together single Sephardic Jews so that we could meet and marry within our own culture and religion in order to keep our traditions alive.

"Although many of the attendees were from different nationalities and different levels of Judaism, we all shared common customs that made it easier for us to relate to one another. I really miss that."

"We finally all got checked into our respective rooms right before sunset on Friday evening. I cried during Kabbalat Shabbat services," said the Israeli born Iraqi. "It had been such a long time since I heard a true Sephardic chant of the prayers and the Kiddush. Everyone was observing during this Shabbat gathering."

"I was especially touched by a true story told by Neil J. Sheff, Chairman of the SEC Young Adult Movement and editor of their publication *Hamerkaz*. A father visited the Kotel and left a note in the wall for G-d to guide his son toward marrying a Jewish girl. After his death, the son visited the same spot and his father's note

fell down into his hand. He met and married his Jewish bride in Israel."

"Shabbat was spent praying in shul, getting motivated at leadership workshops and schmoozing by the pool. I was amazed to see so many Jewish people all in one place," said Tamar. "I was surprised how easy it was to make close friends with people so fast. We ladies felt safe because people took care of people. The guy next door chaperoned me and my new girlfriends for most of the weekend. It was a very Sephardic thing to do."

"On Saturday night, the organizers rented the Savoy Hotel for a night of dancing to Israeli and Spanish music by a local Jewish DJ. We all got into buses and sang songs on the way there. We were delighted with the glatt kosher Sephardic snacks of pita, humus, chicken..."

She said there were Moroccan cigars and free drinks.

"On Sunday, we had a fantastic barbecue beach party, visited the solemn Holocaust Memorial and shopped at the Bayside stores. We even had enough energy for the Sunday night formal gala, where we all dressed to the nines, danced to a live band, and ate delicious appetizers of bourekas and steak kabobs before our full-course dinner."

"On Monday, many of the Miami volunteers continued



THAT WAS THEN — This photo of a smiling Yasser Arafat with Secretary of State Colin Powell was made before President Bush's recent speech calling for Arafat's ouster.

Obituaries

John Frankenheimer, movie, TV director

SAN FRANCISCO — Hollywood director John Frankenheimer, whose films included the 1960s hits "The Birdman of Alcatraz" and "The Manchurian Candidate," is being mourned. He was 72.

Frankenheimer died in Los Angeles following a stroke at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he had undergone spinal surgery, his daughter Kristi Frankenheimer said.

Frankenheimer, a native of Malibu, N.Y., also was an award-winning television director known for social dramas. He won four consecutive

Emmy Awards in the 1990s for the television movies "Against the Wall," "The Burning Season," "Andersonville," and "George Wallace," which also received a Golden Globe award.

In the 1960s, Frankenheimer's credits included the popular hits "The Birdman of Alcatraz," "The Manchurian Candidate," and "Seven Days in May."

Among Frankenheimer's other films were "Reindeer Games," "Ronin," "Grand Prix," "The Fixer," "Black Sunday," and "The French Connection II."

Media Watch

Farewell to 'Politically Incorrect'

By RABBI ELLIOT B. GERTEL

Politically Incorrect has gone the way of all TV series, and Bill Maher has made a valiant effort these past several weeks to show that he is none the worse for the cancellation. Indeed, he



has taken it as a badge of honor.

He has said several times

that he was "fired" because he dared to tell the truth, and that the ratings for the show never sagged.

True, Maher got into hot water when he assented to the comment of a guest in September that the 9-11 terrorists did not show cowardice but courage and that the American military were known for lobbing down bombs instead of fighting. Of course, we soon learned (if we didn't already know) that in any war, especially a war against terrorism, any advantage in the air is welcome support for the courageous soldiers in the trenches below, and that the American attempts to avoid striking innocent civilians were strategies held in contempt by an enemy bent on destroying any life in any manner for the "cause."

Maher's show lost some key markets, including D.C. itself, because he was seen as encouraging defamation of America's military.

But the controversy was not a reflection upon Maher as much as on sponsors who were not true to what they bought into. The whole point of the show was to be a forum for insights and inanities, both on the part of guests and on Maher's own part. It did try to be a thoughtful forum, even though it was just as often as not a forum for pandering to the audience on the part of many a celebrity guest.

The truth is that the show did indeed go the way of all talk shows: Unscripted discussions fluctuate in quality, and brilliant repertoire is in short supply. Even when there are witty guests, they inevitably repeat themselves as their appearances multiply. Even an amusing host like Maher can easily become a parody of himself after several years on a five-day-a-week basis.

I should, however, thank Maher for prompting me to do some columns that I found worthwhile: The first was a critique of his approach to religion, and of the responses of some prominent guests, particularly on the subject of marriage, some of whom were rabbis and clerics of other faiths. The second was an ovation of Maher's courageous stands in behalf of Israel on a number of programs, most notably one that featured Muslim and Jewish students.

But after a while the guests' opinions and Maher's responses seemed choreo-

graphed to expectation. There never was any real dialogue or effort at problem-solving or even any attempt to understand religion on its own terms. This, too, is a syndrome of talk TV that *Politically Incorrect* never overcame.

Still, there was one rather stunning moment of insight that does stand out, and this in the last weeks of the series. Bill Mohr observed that after the terrorist murders of Israeli athletes in the Munich Olympics of 1972, the one responsible for the violence, Arafat himself, was admitted into the United Nations in a feeble attempt to defuse his murderous tendencies with "acceptance." That was quite a historic and psychological insight, and it rightly earned the respect of Maher and of actress Holland Taylor, who was clearly impressed.

I can't say that I'm surprised. Mohr is following in the tradition of sports analysts and humorists such as Bob Costas and Dennis Miller, both of whom, by the way, were impressive and entertaining guests on *Politically Incorrect*. Another impressive mind and spirit is actor/comedian Larry Miller, who has demonstrated consistently on the show that he is a fine and thoughtful individual.

I made a point of watching several episodes in the last two months of *Politically Incorrect* and most of them, frankly, were bland. I watched or taped all the episodes of the last two weeks, and they were better, though uneven.

Bill Maher made his stock pronouncements until the bitter end. Included among them were these themes: Islam is not such a peaceable religion; Catholicism should disappear; Jews and Judaism are redeemable because they're good for laughs; religion is the "unspiritual" way to believe in God; marriage is not necessary, and probably detrimental, for good and loving relationships; drugs should be legalized; the sexual ethics of politicians has nothing to do with their ability to govern; Americans should buy cars that use little gas in order to keep our politicians away from oil-producing countries that hate us; etc., etc.

Maher's animus toward Catholicism escalated in bitterness and nastiness in both his taped moments of monologue and in his off-the-cuff remarks. As I've commented in previous columns, he really needs to

Continued on page 5

Berlin Diary

Notes from under my red hat

By RABBI ALLEN PODET

July 10, 2002

There are six students here in Berlin, two of them Rabbinical candidates. The University



has no problems with a class of 5, nor with a class of one at an advanced level. Good thing, too, because my course in Sefer Aggada in Hebrew drew one candidate, who is a 3rd year equivalent candidate for the rabbinate.

The other course, Introduction to Jewish Philosophy, drew 5, of whom 2 are Rabbinical candidates now and others are considering it. Unfortunately the advertising for the course said — for reasons unclear to me — that a knowledge of English was a requirement for the course. Every college student has studied English, but such a statement is still off-putting.

The educational system here takes some getting used to. Instead of an 8-4-4 system leading to finishing high school at age 18 and college — BA or BS — at age 22, you are more likely to do a 6-4 pattern leading to vocational or technical degrees,

or a 6-12 pattern leading to an MA. Your last 3 years will be totally specialized, but the kind of training you get before that is equivalent to the first two years of American college.

A student before University entrance has typically had integral and differential calculus and everyone but those in Natural Sciences, and even many of them, have done at least four years of Latin. That, by the way, makes further language study a snap. It also creates a sort of intellectual community among the educated.

A professor here has had to publish not only a book of significance, but a second book, generally in a related but not identical field and of a higher level of academic achievement, to demonstrate competence. He or she has to qualify in a number of fields and typically put in a lot more training at a higher level than we require.

Most of my colleagues in Buffalo would not be able to qualify for a professorship here. Most of the people in my department, for example, would not be able to qualify for consideration.

All the colleges are under the Federal university system, and so have to meet certain standards. There are no "Class C" or "Class D" colleges. If you have a university degree here, it is pretty well understood what that means.

Students work a lot more

independently. The professor teaches them how to do something, and they do it. Then they go over what they have done with the professor. I am reminded of a colleague of mine at Washington who did his degree at Oxford. I asked him what was the most important thing he got out of such an education, and he said, "They taught me to read, and they taught me to write."

I must announce my offerings for next term, and I am barely into this one. I should I think offer a Hebrew text course, like Commentaries, plus a non-Hebrew course, like Modern Jewish Philosophers. I could use Rashi and maybe Ibn Ezra and/or Maimonides on, say, the Decalogue and the Creation stories (to start), and for the other course, I think I can find enough German texts to parallel the offerings in Walter Jacob's excellent Christianity Through Jewish Eyes, sadly out of print.

I note that some conversations are going on in my presence as to what they need in a new tenured position for full professor to be opened at Potsdam University: should be a rabbi, should have international qualifications, should be capable in rabbinics, should be capable of teaching such stuff as Midrash and Mishnah.

I have a suspicion that they would like me to overhear this

Continued on page 10

As I Heard It

Tunes here worthy to welcome the sabbath

By MORTON GOLD

Some time ago, I had the pleasure of reviewing a CD made by Benjamin Maissner,



cantor of Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto, Canada. As I recall, it was a wonderful CD.

Actually, there were four other CDs in the set he kindly sent to me. Since I could not review them consecutively in good conscience, I determined that I would review them as I was able. In the course of human events, more time has elapsed than I envisioned.

This CD is called *Welcoming the Sabbath* (the title of many other services, including one by Sholom Secunda). It must have been released in the late 90s, as it is dedicated to the memory of a young man who died in '96. There are 30 selections in all, including two settings of Sephardic origin. There are no translations or transliterations. I suspect this is because the potential listeners, members of Holy Blossom, are already familiar with the prayers (words as well as music), as they are selections used in services there.

Judging from the compositions used, the quality of the performances by Maissner have consistently high vocal standards. All of the arrangements and MIDI orchestration (save one) by Ted Labov are most effectively done. From the first selection, the "L'cha Dodi" by A. Ben Soussan, we hear the lyric tenor voice of Maissner, in this case singing in harmony with himself in a spirited setting of the text. This technique of self-harmonization is effectively employed in many of the prayers.

The second selection ("Y'did Nefesh") is a plaintive Hassidic setting of that text. Lovely. The third selection is the "Blessing of Candles" by A.W. Binder. This custom is the exclusive province in Reform temples. This is now followed by three settings of the "L'cha Dodi" prayer. (Praise G-d, spelled L'cha not L'Kha!)

The first of these is a traditional Hassidic setting; the second is an imaginative setting by

the Israeli composer M. Zeira. However, it is the third setting that is the most interesting one from a musical standpoint. It was composed by D. Aronson-Shore, whose music is unknown to me (my loss). The music here captures the mystical spirit of the text and does not exist as a pre-text for a congregation whoop-de-doo.

The seventh and eighth selections are two different settings of the Barchu. The first is by D. Jacobson/S. Libava and is in the coffeehouse, quasi-Hassidic vein. The second by B. Siegel is only too familiar to me. If a real Hassid should by some happenstance find himself in a Reform temple, on hearing this, which is in a hip kind of *ersatz* Hassidic style, he would run, not walk, to the nearest exit, Shabbat or no Shabbat! I suspect most teens would really like this setting, if only because they do not know any better. (What about their elders?)

Selection number nine is the Rosenblum setting of "Ahavat Olam." I really enjoyed the arrangement here as well as the rendition of this chestnut. The cantorial bridge to the Sh'ma was much appreciated. The instrumental introduction to the setting by Z. Pik was impressive. The "Sh'ma" itself, however, came as a let-down, being anything but impressive.

This is followed by two different settings of "Mi Chamocha," the first by I. Freed (the label not withstanding), the second by Lazar Weiner. Of the two, the Weiner is more musical and more expressive. We also hear two different settings of the "V'Shamru," the first by P. Rubin (where is the campfire?) and the second by Meir Finklestein. If one has to have a peppy setting (upbeat?) of the V'Shamru, I would rather listen to the latter than the former.

The real question I should pose is why, oh why, must each of these prayers be exuberant or lively? Let us consider the text: "The children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath. It is a sign between me and them..." It seems to be more of a command than a pre-text for a party.

Selection number 17 is the Meir Finklestein setting of the "V'al Kulam." This pleasant but sugary setting receives a superb performance from Maissner. To my ears, however, the music suggests Hollywood more than Jerusalem.

This is followed by two different settings of Shalom Rav. The first is by Klepper and

Freelander. (And all the time I thought that it was written by Ben Steinberg!) This was the only case in which I found the arrangement marred by an annoying percussion part that added nothing to the effectiveness of the music. This setting is another example of the blurring of the lines of musical influences between the commercial world and the temple world.

The second setting is by D. Aronson-Shore, and it is a sensitive one. True, the music is in a ballad style, but I get the feeling that the composer is more interested in expressing the feeling of the text than in pleasing an audience. To be sure, there is nothing at all wrong with the former, as long as it does not come at the expense of the latter.

Selection number 20 is a setting of "Hochma" by P. Miskowsky. I am so very glad that this selection was included. The performance by Maissner is exquisite, and Lebow's arrangement is wonderful. Yes, the tune is not exactly new, nor is it "upbeat," but it is in its way a classic, and a tune that will still be sung when many of the newer ones on this disc will be forgotten.

One oldie deserves another, and the Minkowski is followed by the traditional (Goldfarb?) setting of Shalom Aleichem. Again, really enjoyable. This is followed by the folk song "Ma Yafeh Hayom." The arrangement where Maissner sings the verse as counterpoint to the chorus is inspired.

The word "nigun" signifies a wordless melody. In an age where one hears all too many songs that consist of words without music, this harkens back to a time when one could experience the depth of meaning that comes with music without words. This particular *nigun* by Aronson-Shore is particularly expressive. Maissner is in his element here, demonstrating his vocal artistry along with excellent breath control.

Selection number 24 is the traditional setting of "Yom Zeh M'chubod." This is a genuine Hassidic melody (as opposed to a fake one). The difference can be likened to kosher as opposed to kosher style. I suspect that somebody, somewhere, sometime actually made this tune up. The luck of the draw is that nobody knows who, so it is referred to as being "traditional." The fact is that oftentimes, even though the composer is known, Mr. Traditional is the one credited.

Another folk song, "Yah Ribon," follows, and this genuinely spirited song is given its due. No phony "hey, heys" are needed, thank you. Another folk song, this one from Baghdad, "Ki Eshm'ra," follows. It is a charming tune with an engaging lilt. In the best sense of the word, it is "catchy." That is to say, it easily grows on you.

The Klepper/Freelander setting of the priestly benediction follows. This lovely, sensitive setting is given a beautiful rendition by Maissner. Maissner's own setting of the text of "Laasoh B'divre Torah" is an effective and engaging one. I really appreciated the do-la-do ending instead of the anticipated do-ti-do. My congratulations to him. The descending phrase on the word V'tsivanu is one any congregation will be only too happy to take from him.

Two lively Hassidic tunes bring this disc to a conclusion. They are "Lo Yisa Goy" and "Yism'chu Hashamayim," both

Gertel

Continued from page 4

work on his relationship with the Church in which he was raised. Indeed, the monologue vignettes, scattered around the commercials, grew more and more vituperative and angry in general.

Maier never did learn the art of offering pointed criticism with good humor. On his final show he shared his guiding principle: "You have to stay suspicious." (I couldn't help thinking of Abraham Heschel's complaint that one of the plagues of modern society is that "Love your neighbor as yourself" has been replaced with "Suspect your neighbor as yourself.") Maier proudly vowed, "I will not mellow."

Yet Maier "mellows" when it comes to Jews and Judaism. His "all in good fun" attitude toward Jews and Judaism resulted in his letting pass, or his mouthing, some unpleasant remarks about Jews. On one of the last episodes, New York columnist A. J. Benza commented, "Women and gay men run Hollywood — and Jews," and no one, least of all Maier, took him to task.

On the last show, Maier, whose mother is Jewish, relished his jocular expression of thanks to his "fabulous Jew agents and managers." Why did he say that, unless he needs to work on his relationship with the Jewish community as well as with the Catholic

with Maissner singing in harmony with himself.

In conclusion, this disc is one that will bring joy to anyone who knows these selections. To those who do not, well, by golly, you should. The difficulty with using music that is designed to appeal mostly to the young is that it does not engage them over the long haul, while it may very well estrange the habitual (older) worshipper. There is something that will appeal to every age and taste.

On balance, *Welcoming the Sabbath* does exactly what the title suggests. It welcomes the Bride with singing, with joy, and with spirit. As the Gershwin lyric states, "Who could ask for anything more?"

The CD may be obtained by writing to: Holy Blossom Temple, Bathurst Street, Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Gold may be reached at: 12 Avenue B, Rutland, Vermont 05701-4503, or by e-mail at: drmortongold@juno.com.

Church?

The final episodes of the series, particularly the last one, showcased far more wallowing in self-pity and orchestrated self-congratulation than one would have expected from Maier, especially given his disdain for therapeutic, self-help television. Interestingly, in his sentimental moments, he invoked the vocabulary of Judaism: "I was just as proud as a boy at his bar mitzvah," Maier said, when recalling his reaction when interviewer Larry King praised him for making people "think differently."

Throughout the final episodes, Maier's guests kept reassuring him that he had brought unprecedented thoughtfulness and wit to television and had introduced to a large audience some capable and mindful people. Yes, this is true, but Maier also showcased his dogmas (several listed above) and those of some demagogic guests. I would add that we are left in good hands, as the interviewers and pundits on the Fox Network, to take a good example, present various frames of reference, question all points of view, and even, challenge (as Bill O'Reilly does) the motivations and good sense of celebrity political stances.

For the most part, Maier provided his most famous guests with the applause of

Continued on page 10

One Woman's Voice

Legacies we must share

By MIRIAM ZIMMERMAN

The Prime Minister's Conference on the Legacy of Holocaust Survivors: Moral and Ethical Implications took only one week out of my life. But it



was transformative for me in ways that I am still processing.

Israelis I met at the conference hotel (the beautiful Renaissance Jerusalem) and at the conference itself exclaimed how brave we were to visit Israel at this time.

Although I arrived in Israel after six consecutive days of suicide bombings, I felt no fear. I promised my family I would stay in the hotel and venture out only to take the bus provided by Yad Vashem, the site of the conference *shuk*. I promised I would avoid the usual tourist spots like Ben Yehudah Street, the Mahane Yehudah (open air Jewish market), or the Arab in the Old City and spend my time only at Yad Vashem, the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, the official Israeli memorial to the Holocaust.

At Ben Gurion Airport, the line for foreign nationals to go through customs was quite short. For the first time in all my trips to Israel, Israeli citizens had to wait longer than the tourists to get through customs because there were virtually no tourists.

I quickly found a "sh'root," shared van, that whisked me from the airport to the Renaissance Jerusalem Hotel. According to the hotel's welcoming letter, "It is a special privilege for the Renaissance Jerusalem Hotel to extend a warm welcome.... Built by survivors of the Shoah, the management and staff of this Hotel feel a special affinity towards your work."

Conference participants were invited to use the complete facilities of the hotel, including pool, health club, and indoor heated pool.

One of the two towers of the Renaissance Hotel was completely closed. The dining room in the remaining tower never held more than 20 or 30

for the lavish breakfast buffet. From the time I arrived until I left, the country felt empty to me, bereft of people.

Unsteady, I felt as if I were under constant surveillance. An armed guard sat at the entrance to the hotel and armed guards accompanied conference participants in the buses to and from Yad Vashem. I wondered if the feeling of being constantly scrutinized was the same as being in a police state. Yet, the guards made me feel safe.

Despite the security crisis in Israel, more than 300 participants from Israel and 27 countries around the world took part in the conference, according to Yad Vashem's online program. The conference began with official Israeli Yom HaShoah ceremonies in Warsaw Ghetto Square at Yad Vashem.

Because Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would speak that night, Yad Vashem brought in five airport-type screening machines. Thus, our buses left the hotel at 6 p.m. for the 8 o'clock ceremony.

The Army's presence was everywhere. At least twice, conference participants filed past uniformed guards whose eyes constantly scrutinized the submissive crowd. It was then that I began to feel as if I were in a police state. The famous two-minute siren that marked the moment Erev Yom HaShoah had begun started just after a security guard had asked me to empty my purse. He wanted to know why I had two wallets in it. As soon as the siren started, everyone froze, the machines turned off.

Instead of thinking about the meaning of the Shoah, the State of Israel, and the legacy of Holocaust survivors, I stared at my personal items naked on the conveyor belt: medicines, makeup, mirror. The second wallet that had aroused the security guard's suspicion turned out to be my Palm Pilot, snug in its black leather case that could pass for a wallet.

Once through security, we had an hour before the ceremonies would begin. Ephraim Kaye, conference coordinator, had reserved seats for conference participants near the front of the large plaza.

The ceremony in Warsaw Ghetto Plaza began with a short film of survivors pro-

jected onto a large screen to the right of the speakers' podium. Then, the army color guard lowered the Israeli flag to half-staff. Avner Shalev, chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, lit the Memorial torch.

The Moran Choir sang "Here Beneath the Starry Splendor" in Hebrew. President Moshe Katsav's address was followed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's address.

I do not like feeling like a name-dropper, so I will turn to the six survivors whose grandchildren each lit one flame of the giant candelabrum in remembrance of the six million murdered martyrs.

Each survivor stood beside one of the giant torches with his or her grandchild. A short film of each described the survivor's experience in the Shoah. After each film clip, the survivor's grandchild kindled the torch.

I blinked back tears at the symbolism of the passing of the torch to the third generation of Holocaust survivors. The following brief descriptions of the survivor's lives are from Yad Vashem's quarterly magazine, spring 2002.

Mordechai Eldar, born in 1929 in Campulung la Tisa, Transylvania, was from a Spinka Hassidic family of six children. Mordechai (Motke) miraculously survived two selections at Auschwitz. He survived Sachsenhausen, Mauthausen, and a death march, where he was liberated when the SS abandoned the prisoners in a forest near Gunskirchen. Today, Motke has two sons and six grandchildren.

Esther Zmri née Hazan was born in Ciechanowice, Poland, the youngest of five children. A child survivor, Esther and one of her brothers, hiding in the ghetto, heard her mother scream, "Don't kill me — I have young children" followed by two shots. Polish farmers Kazimierz and Janina Bialy hid Esther and her brother on their farm. In 1991, Kazimierz and Janina Bialy were recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations for saving Esther and her brother. Esther has four children and nine grandchildren.

Ovadia Baruch was born in Salonika, Greece, in 1922 to a family of seven children. In March 1943, his ghetto was ordered to buy one-way tickets

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to an unknown destination. The following day they were loaded onto cattle cars — 100 per compartment, without food, water, or amenities. He survived Mengele's selection at Auschwitz only to be savagely beaten and tortured. He was sent on a death march to Germany via Dachau, Mauthausen, Gusen I, Gusen II, and Melk. He was liberated on May 5, 1945 by two American soldiers.

After liberation, he married the woman who had heard him screaming in Ladino, his native language, while being beaten in Auschwitz for stealing food. Today, Ovadia has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Loti (Nomi) Lang was born in 1933 in Sarajevo. Aban-

Continued on page 7

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It's Arlene Peck!

I long for the frivolous old days

By ARLENE PECK

I know, the times have changed.

The day those bastards blew up our Twin Towers, we in the United States lost our



virginity of naivete. Of course, we who have a semblance of Jewish roots have long known to watch our backs. But folks, we did have another life out there before Sept. 11.

In the old days, before I was a political pundit, I used to ponder. I wondered about who people were when I'd meet them. Usually, I'd wait about two minutes into the conversation and then inquire, "What do you do in real life? Do you have a day job?"

I've never been into asking, "What's your sign? And, I'd deplore it when someone asked it of me. I usually answered, "Dollar bills — yield, why fight it?" Besides, I don't see anything wrong with that. I think my questions show an inquiring mind. Also, they tend to weed out the wimps.

There are certain vocations that I don't think would enthrall me. For instance, light-house keepers, NFL football players and plumbers don't make me say, "Be still my heart."

Not that I have anything against plumbers. In fact, there have been times when I would have traded the use of a maid for a plumber to come to my home. However, I don't think that I would want to continue any in-depth relationship with a man with a plunger.

Mind you, I don't think that there is anything wrong with plumbers. That choice of career doesn't make a man a bad person. Nor do I think that there is anything wrong with construction workers or even forest rangers. In fact, I've been told that they sometimes lend a certain lustful enthusiasm to social situations. I think that Willie Wilson is probably a very nice man. But, I'm not especially drawn to people who think that way.

It's possible that growing up in Georgia and dealing with the Redneck Riviera population jaded me in some respect. Granted the Jewish ones had a little more savoir-faire. If they married it was out of ignorance and they thought Jewish law

Again, I'm not saying that makes you a bad person. Just different. I'm still saving that bottle of Mogen David for some special occasion.

It's just so different here in Southern California. Our religious observance is differ-



Arlene with Ted Turner.

required marrying their first cousin. They grew up thinking that a hora was a high priced call girl.

Today's lifestyle is a variation. They might plan for a sukkah in Atlanta, but it would probably come complete with a gun rack. Kidding aside, I recently was astounded at the number of Jewish residents there. I remember when there were four synagogues. Atlanta had The Temple, the Big Shul and The Little Shul and the Spanish Synagogue. A mixed marriage then was if someone from the Sephardim synagogue hooked up with someone from the Ashkenazi.

I swear, I had a cousin once who married someone from there and she dropped off the face of the earth. Or, so everyone thought. The Reform members of The Temple never intermingled with anyone but each other. Now, there must be 50 congregations listed in the phone book.

I go back to Atlanta and visit my uncle Sidney and Aunt Clara's house where everyone speaks with a southern accent so sharp it could cut through glass. Then, it begins to come back to me. I swear, I remember my mother's friends coming into the house and saying, "Vos mach du, y'all. The Southerner would respond with a y'all. Quite a contrast with the people out West. When someone would shout to them, "L'chaim" they would respond with "L'howdy."

ent. We're more nouveau religious. My doctor recently told me that he kept kosher in the house. That I found impressive as so few are out here. That is, until I found out that his dog was named, "Kosher."

It hit me recently how much more sophisticated the kids out here are. Daughter Dana called me and asked advice on hiking and was it OK to wear jeans and sneakers to hike? I said, "Of course, why?" She then went on to tell me that her friend Diana said you have to have special hiking shorts and boots. I did tell her, maybe she better take a jacket in case it gets cold and be careful not to get lost.

Exasperated, she answered, "For G-d's sake Mom, what's going to happen to four Jewish girls with cell phones hiking in Brentwood? (Brentwood's a wealthy suburb of Beverly Hills.)

And finally, on the subject of men, G-d bless them. Life is so easy for them. When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping. Men invade another country.

I've been told that older women are like fine wine who get better with age. Actually, I think that men are like wine, too. They start out as grapes. It's our job to stomp them and keep them in the dark until they mature. And, hopefully, they'll turn out to be something we would like to have dinner with.

It's not easy. Men-tal anxiety, Men-opause. Men-tal Breakdown. Did you ever notice that all our problems start

with men? Personally, I think that men are the frosting on the cake. But, you can bet your bippies, I am the cake!

Digest of the Yiddish Press

Yiddish from Down Under

By SAMUEL SILVER

The Government of Australia sponsors radio programs in 60 languages, among them



Yiddish and Hebrew. The Yiddish program began in 27 years ago. It is heard three times a week. One of the programs is a discussion of the weekly Torah passage by a Rabbi. (Samuel Bennett, in the Forward.)

Israel a UN target

In a sharply sardonic piece Miriam Hoffman, of the Forward, writes that the UN has only one reason for existence: to chastise Israel. Violence and hunger and suffering occur in many countries, but the UN virtually ignores all that. It concentrates only on blasting Israel.

Canadians salute Elberg

One of the finest Yiddish writers is Yehuda Elberg, a native of Poland, and now a resident of Montreal. He recently celebrated his 90th birthday and salutes to him have appeared in many of Canada's newspapers. His novels depict

life in Poland, the Jewish travails during the Holocaust, and the high ethical standards of the Jewish faith. (S. Simchovitch, in the Forward.)

Occupational errors

Can Mexicans claim that Texas is "occupied Mexico?" That would be comparable to what the Arabs call "occupied Palestine." The Arabs attacked the Israelis five times. On some occasions they seized areas that have always belonged to the Jews. Jordan, for example, occupied Jerusalem and wouldn't let Jews get to the Western Wall.

The Arabs have 22 countries, but they still call Jeda Samaria, which was always Jewish, Palestine. Palestine was always the name of the Jewish territory. The maps of the Arabs don't include an entity called Israel. So the constant cry that the Jews "occupy" Arab lands is a falsehood. The real occupiers are the so-called Palestinians. (I. Birnbaum, in the Algemeiner Journal)

Free trip to Israel

Jewish youth between the ages of 18 to 26 can get a free ten-day trip to Israel. A paid ad in the Algemeiner Journal by Birthright Israel invites them to apply for the visit. Space is limited, advises the ad. Those interested can apply online at www.birtherightisrael.com.

Zimmerman

Continued from page 6

done by a Muslim hired by her parents to take her to her grandparents in a neighboring village. Loti eventually wound up in a monastery to be cared for by nuns. After three months, she was sent back to the village and wandered around offering shepherding and sock-mending services for room and board. She maintained contact with her brother who had joined the partisans.

After the war, she learned that their parents had perished.

In 1948, she illegally immigrated to Palestine. Today, she has two daughters and five grandchildren.

Professor Kalman Perk was born in 1930 in Kovno, Lithuania, to an affluent Zionist family. Packed into a cattle car bound for Auschwitz, his mother pleaded for her son to escape: "He looks like a gentile, he is mischievous — he will stay alive." Even though his cousin had just leaped to his death, Kalman's father tossed

Continued on page 10

Stand up and be counted

By MARTIN DAVIDSON

I sit here at my desk in Jerusalem and I wonder, has the whole world gone mad? Is this 1984 (George Orwell) revisited? Has anti-Semitism returned, or did it never leave us? Didn't the world learn its lesson of World War II? Am I just plain Naïve? The answer to all the above is...I am just plain naïve!

We have to admit that this is an era of instant coffee and instantaneous solutions. The new global village opens the floodgates, inviting all the sewage it brings in its wake. What is happening is a resurgence of the 1930's. Make no mistake about it. But with one major difference. Today, we have control of our destiny.

Today, we have an Israel.

I wrote in a previous article ("Return to Auschwitz") that we should not submit to the slaughter and outrages of Nazi Germany for a second time. This agenda is reinforced by the media attention on the Israeli operation "Defensive Shield." We, Jews, have a tradition of wanting to be accepted by society. We want to be loved by the world around us. We are the perpetually rejected lover. Unfortunately, the rejection only prompts us to degrade ourselves further. Those left-wingers will sacrifice almost anything to win the attention and approval of the world, like a child craving the attention of a parent.

It's time we grew up. Maturity demands a different behavior. We must act responsibly. We must be self-confident, proud and certain that our values and principles are justified. Maturity is not just an inevitable sequence of chronology!

I remember an inspirational sermon given by Rabbi Norman Lamm while in England some 30 years ago. He spoke of the difference between normal and average.

"I only want my children to be normal," echoes the current attempts by Israel, to be understood by the nations of the world. Good luck, Charlie.

What is meant by the appeal to be normal? In truth, it is actually a petition to be average. We want to fit in. We want to be an acknowledged part of an accepted society. A prayer to conform dutifully. We prefer to belong to the silent majority in lieu of joining the ranks of the lonely independents. That is average, not normal:

"Average, explains Rabbi Lamm, is determined by quantity, not quality. He illustrates this beautifully. If ten people line up in a row and the hand of one person is deprived of a finger, then the average number of fingers per person is 9.9. Is it normal, then, that a person in that company has 9.9 fingers? Wrong! It is average. Is it normal that a person has 10 fingers (okay, eight plus two thumbs)? Definitely, with one exception.

Today's norms sanction adultery, same-sex marriages, corruption, and corporate raids and yes you guessed it... suicide, nay, homicide bombers. Blowing up innocent civilians, women and children included, is normal in the Arab world. Not because it is average. Most Muslims do not wish to arrive at the gates of heaven prematurely. But it is normal because it has become a value, promulgated by the preaching of violence by hateful imams, in mosques, ranging from Indonesia to Afghanistan.

Have you noticed that all the violent spots worldwide are

Islam? You preach violence? Sometimes your prayers are answered. But not always in the way that you wish. Self-defense is a form of violence too. It is normal that Jews don't kill. Which is why we are called the Am Segulah, the chosen people - chosen to lead the world in values; chosen to spread the loftiest of principles to the unenlightened.

The stronger the capability, the less the need to demonstrate it. So cowards can taunt and provoke the Lion of Judah, but we remain the descendants of David, NOT Goliath. The Palestinians (read Philistines) have a legitimate claim, perhaps, to that lineage.

Christianity is slowly waking up to the realization that they and their values are as much in the telescopic sights of fundamentalist Islam as are the Jews. CNN cannot be blamed. Many of their editors question the values of normalcy against the quantitative approach. One senior staff member was reported, recently, as admitting that Judeo-Christian values may be wrong. The terrorists may, after all, be the good guys. So the means justifies the end.

Leaders are, by definition, in the minority. They are the one in front, followed by a series of no-value zeroes. Israel must stand up to be counted. Religion and traditional values are not required to be popular. They need no election. They set the standards by which the enlightened must follow. Those lost in the darkness must canvass votes, such as CNN and BBC executives, to claim a majority. That is the only way they can impose their values on intelligent and compassionate human beings.

So Israel must proclaim her normalcy, which is defined by her morality. Her leadership and principles stand in the face of a volatile, adverse press. The media plaster their headlines but we, the people, must read the small print. The ordinary citizen is the small print, who demands to be left in peace, to earn an honest wage.

Europe has not changed her spots since the 1930's. We have changed, not they. We must demonstrate that maturity, by rejecting the average opinion of the media. Even though it means swimming upstream. Disregard the prevailing winds. Soon enough they will blow away. ...

Truth be told, the "massive demonstration in the streets of Europe and the USA recruit two to three thousand supporters only, marching in full view of the hungry camera. When the honorable are galvanized into action, we see demonstrations of 200,000 to 300,000, like the recent pro-Israel rally in Washington. We know how to write letters, attend demonstrations and persuade the undecided voters. Every avalanche begins with a snowball. The UN is coming to Israel to define the norm. In this period of the Omer, we know how to count and be counted. Otherwise, our days are truly numbered.

As we approach Lag Ba'omer, let us not "lag" behind in our responsibilities to champion the normal over the average. It is time to court our blessings. - reprinted from *The Jewish Press*.

Zimmerman

Continued from page 6
him out, exclaiming, "Kalman, du zolst zein a mensch!" (Kalman, be a good person).

Perk continued eastward to the Russian front posting as a Lithuanian. He arrived in Palestine in 1945. In Switzerland, Perk studied to be a veterinarian and subsequently founded the Department of Anatomy and Physiology of the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Today, he conducts cancer research. He has two sons and five grandchildren.

Michael Urlich was born in Tarnopol, Poland, in 1934. An only child, his parents sent him to live with a Polish family, the Stachowicz, to save him. In 1944, the Stachowicz family was sent to Buchenwald where the husband was murdered.

After liberation, Mrs. Helena Stachowicz searched for Jews who would be able to raise him. She found Rabbi Dr. Ya'acov Avigdor who took Michael to a Swiss orphanage for young Jewish survivors from Auschwitz and Buchenwald. In 1946, Michael immigrated to Israel, studied in B'nei Brak, and became a rabbi.

Six months ago, Helena Stachowicz became a Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem. Michael has three children and eight grandchildren.

To me, Holocaust education, Holocaust commemorations, and Holocaust memorials need to somehow express the voices of the survivors. The figure of six million martyrs is too huge, too easily dismissed as a statistic.

Elie Wiesel proclaimed, "A person who listens to a witness becomes a witness." As the number of survivors' voices di-

minishes year by year, the time is approaching when each Jew must become a witness to the full enormity of the Holocaust. By hearing details of individual stories, the second and third generations will be better able to bear witness. The legacy of Holocaust survivors is a legacy for all Jews.

Gertel

Continued from page 5
their like-minded supporters. Some of the notable dexterity on the part of less-known guests was the ability to get around the clapping showered upon the most trite observations of the rich and famous.

In retrospect, I would say that Maher's show was generally far more worthwhile than not, but that it definitely required growth in its interactions and levels of discussion. That growth was never realized, but the program did offer some fine and memorable moments. And Maher will be missed. He fitted no mold but the one he ultimately cast on the show. One hopes Maher will shed that mold in this transition between *Politically Incorrect* and his future endeavors.

I end my farewell to *Politically Incorrect* in the way he ended. With all the people he could thank (and he did thank staff and guests and audience), he chose, on the last regular show, to thank two people. The first was Dr. Jack Kevorkian, whose "cause" Maher defended as a "libertarian." The second was a friend, Todd McCormick, who was arrested by Federal authorities for using marijuana for cancer treatment in line with a 1996 California law that was at odds with federal law. Maher made

some moving and provocative observations about how his friend was not allowed by the federal courts to mention the California ruling or the positive effects of the weed on cancer patients.

I, for one, felt that at the end of the series I was thrown a couple of strange wrenches. I recall that Maher had mentioned his friend on several occasions, but he had never before gone into such detail about the case. Why didn't he ever provide forum for the federal and California lawmakers and law-enforcers to present their cases on the show?

And how could he defend the "cause" of Dr. Kevorkian, vowing that he will not allow the euthanizer to be forgotten, without presenting the concerns of respected ethicists (not to mention jurists) who deplore Kevorkian's actions and his rhetoric of death?

Much as I will miss Maher, and I will, his concluding wrenches, together with the other factors I mentioned in this column, convince me that his work on *Politically Incorrect* is now done — and perhaps undone.

Rona

Continued from page 3
their hospitality by taking a group of us to dinner at a local kosher Israeli restaurant followed by a coffee nightcap at the posh, romantic Delaneys Hotel on the South Beach, before we packed to return home."

Tamar considers herself lucky to have attended this event for the first time.

"I feel blessed for having met so many like-minded women with whom to share the trials and tribulations of dating Sephardic

men. There was the enticement to meet my future husband here, but I am just grateful to know that this event exists. This November, I plan on going to the next SEC convention, in Montreal. I'd recommend it to all young, single Sephardic people."

Podet

Continued from page 4
and to consider such a position. I have already been informed that such a post, at a high enough level, would come with tenure. At the moment, I would not consider it, because first, Valerie said some time ago that she does not want to spend the rest of her life in Germany (although she would not, perhaps, stick to that if I really really wanted it), and second, I would miss the congregation. Besides, there has been no offer. As the Navy says, until you have orders in hand, nothing has happened.

I could be misreading the situation with the conversations above. Wait until they hear my *Antrittsvortrag*, Introductory Public Lecture. The Government dignitaries will be there, along with all kinds of sharpshooters and marksmen from other departments and the public at large, other universities, politicians, academics, directors of institutions and museums. A really big deal, and a great chance to blow off myself personally and Geiger College institutionally.

One suspects there will be

people there who would not mind seeing that happen. Maybe I can get Albert Friedlander to wear a red cowboy hat (my trademark. I wear it around a lot) and give the address for me.

Incidentally, some of my friends advised not to indicate that I am an American, since Americans are thought to be in danger. If that is true, it is only true in America. Here I have worn my cowboy hat everywhere, and have drawn only friendly comments: "Hiya, Tex!" or "Hey, great hat!" It gets a lot of smiles from pretty girls, I notice.

We were in Colorado and chanced into a hand-made-hat store. I wanted a black hat, Valerie Jill a white one. We compromised on red, and she bought it for me. Of course, I had to wear it. Once, back at Buffalo, I was at a student rally and saw the campus police out in force, plainclothes, inconspicuous, just keeping order. I wrote an article for the school paper praising the cops and pointing out the unseen good job they do.

At a later time, I was pulled over for a slight speeding misunderstanding, and the policeman said, "Hey, you're the guy in the red hat that wrote that nice article about us." I admitted I was, and have never gotten a ticket since. I certainly intend to continue wearing the hat.

Rabbi Podet is Principal or Rector of Geiger Rabbinical College in Potsdam (Berlin). He encourages comments at apodet@yahoo.com

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Book Reviews

Love of money is traced to its roots

Review by MORTON I. TEICHER

Money Wanders by Eric Dezenhall. New York: Thomas Dunne Books,

St. Martin's Press, 2002. 338 Pages. \$24.95

All I Could Get by Scott Lasser. New York: A.A. Knopf, 2002. 246 Pages. \$24.

These two novels are light, easy-to-read stories in both of which money plays an important role.

"Money Wanders" deals with the Mafia and the supposed "hidden stash" of \$1 billion that belonged to Jewish racketeer Mickey Price, owner of an Atlantic City casino, who dies as the story opens. The search for his fortune involves the Mob as well as his grandson, Jonah Eastman. "All I Could Get" tells about Barry Schwartz and his wife, Rachel, but mostly about Barry's heady financial activity as a Wall Street trader.

In "Money Wanders," Jonah, a political pollster and the first person narrator, is called to Atlantic City to take over his grandfather's gambling empire. However, he is first summoned by Mario Vanni, Italian Mafia leader, who wants to get out of the

rackets by obtaining a legitimate license to operate a gambling casino. Vanni wants Jonah to conduct a public relations effort that will change his image so that the Casino Control Commission will grant him a license. Jonah has no choice but to accept the assignment and he embarks on a well-orchestrated media campaign.

The hilarious story of this endeavor occupies most of the book. It introduces a series of unlikely characters including publicists, journalists, hackers, pollsters, psychologists, an outlaw Rabbi, a fictitious gangster named "Automatic Bart" and a spurious organization dubbed "DELVAC," the Delaware Valley Anticrime Coalition. Vanni is coached for television interviews and arrangements are made for him to testify before the senatorial committee on urban affairs. He appears as "an aging ruffian who stopped a brass knuckle short of coming clean."

Yiddish words and Jonah's romances punctuate the tale as it spins to an unforeseen climax. Author Dezenhall, co-founder of a crisis management firm, has written an inventive

first novel that follows the money through merry pranks.

Instead of the underworld, Lasser, in *All I Could Get*, writes about high finance on Wall Street. The cutthroat and often unscrupulous competition he depicts is as motivated by money as are the gangsters in Dezenhall's story. Barry Schwartz, Lasser's protagonist, is an "unobservant Jew" who works in a firm that trades in millions of dollars, buying and selling stocks, bonds, and commodities.

He is so consumed by clawing for increased earnings and higher position in the firm that he neglects his wife, Rachel, and their two children. His marriage falls apart and he finally realizes the emptiness of his obsessive search for more and more money. This absorbing story painfully reveals the corruption of money.

These two books demonstrate in full measure the truth of the statement that "the love of money is the root of all evil."

Dr. Morton I. Teicher is the founding dean of the Wurzwiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University and Dean Emeritus, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Take 'Her' to the beach

Review by MORTON I. TEICHER

Her by Laura Zigman. New York: A.A. Knopf, 2002. 211 Pages. \$22

One of the largest genres in American fiction is romance. It accounts for about half of all the novels sold in the United States. Most of them fall into the category of contemporary romance as distinguished from historical, Gothic, romantic suspense, and romantic comedy.

Romances deal with the love relationship between a man and a woman who are the two leading characters in the book. A well-written romance involves its readers by enabling them to experience vicariously the romantic encounter. Usually, romance novels have a happy ending. Whether or not that is true of *Her*, a romantic comedy, is an open question.

Zigman has written two previous novels, *Animal Husbandry* and *Dating Big Bird*. Both were well received and this new contribution from her witty pen also deserves high marks. It combines a love affair with comedy as it exploits the theme of jealousy, which Shakespeare in *Othello*,

called "the green-eyed monster."

Elise is a young Jewish woman who lives in Washington and works as a free lance editor. She occasionally travels to New York to get assignments from her friend, Anne, who works for a book publisher. Donald is a Catholic who claims that he feels Jewish because he lived in New York for so long that he became accustomed to smoked fish and bagels. He worked in Wall Street for almost 15 years before deciding that he had enough of the long hours.

Now he teaches English in a private Washington high school. They meet on the shuttle from New York to Washington and, thus their romance starts. Her is Adrienne, Donald's former fiancée with whom he remains "good friends." It turns out that she has a Jewish father and a French mother.

As the relationship between Donald and Elise flourishes, they decide to get married but Elise is consumed with envy about Donald's apparent continuing interest in Adrienne. Her concern turns to suspicion when Adrienne announces that she is moving to Washington.

After the move, Elise stalks Adrienne to determine whether or not Donald is secretly seeing her. As the story unfolds and the wedding day approaches, complications mount with a series of events described in Zigman's skillfully funny writing style. For example, will Dumbarton House, where the wedding is to take place, allow a chuppah? Most of the issues, however, turn on Elise's anxiety about whether or not Donald is really over his love for Adrienne.

This is a clever illustration of romance comedy at its best. It is light-hearted and frothy, eminently suitable for recreational reading.

Dr. Morton I. Teicher is the founding dean of the Wurzwiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University and Dean Emeritus, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Biographer outdoes autobiographer on Soros

Review by MORTON I. TEICHER

Soros by Michael T. Kaufman. New York: A.A. Knopf, 2002. 345 Pages. \$27.50

George Soros on Globalization by George Soros. New York: Public Affairs Books, 2002. 192 Pages. \$20

Born in 1930 in Budapest to an upper middle class Jewish family named Schwartz, George Soros lived through World War II with its German and Russian occupation of Hungary. The family managed to survive by changing its name to Soros and passing as non-Jews. Soon after the war ended, Soros moved to London where he supported himself by menial jobs while attending the London School of Economics. Nine years later, in 1956, Soros arrived in New York and started an enormously successful Wall Street career that made him one of the world's richest men. As his fortune grew

into the billions, he became more and more involved in personal philanthropy, setting up a network of foundations that spent \$425 million annually for the past five years.

The exciting story of Soros's life, his achievements and his efforts to produce open societies through a monumental one-man foreign aid program are set forth in Kaufman's well written biography. The author honed his writing skills by working at the New York Times for almost four decades as a reporter, foreign correspondent, columnist and editor. He devoted the last five years to writing this book, interviewing more than 100 people, most notably Soros himself who cooperated fully and urged others to provide information. Susan, Soros's second wife, Robert, his oldest son, and Paul, his brother, were especially helpful.

Although Soros had a bar mitzvah in 1943, he wears his

Jewishness lightly. His first wife was not Jewish and his mother, who Soros called "a typical Jewish anti-Semite," converted to Catholicism. Robert, Soros's oldest son, "grew up without any religious identity." Despite providing funds in many countries, Soros is not interested in supporting Israel since he believes that the "zeal of pro-Israel Zionists" is "unappealingly chauvinistic." He does not respond to solicitations from Jewish organizations.

Quite the opposite of Kaufman's easy-to-read and fascinating biography, Soros's own book dealing with globalization is dull and dense. His aim is to improve global capitalism and as one who has made a great fortune in international financial markets, he has a justifiable claim, which he unabashedly makes, to special expertise. However, his presentation is replete with confusing acronyms and with technical jargon that bewilders readers

who are not fully versed in global economics. He analyzes world trade institutions and makes proposals to improve their functioning. He argues vigorously for international cooperation and for a global open society, especially after September 11.

Readers who want to understand Soros's ideas will do better to concentrate on Kaufman's biography than on Soros's own literary effort. It is most impressive to learn about "the only man in the United States who has his own foreign policy and can implement it," as he was once described. The story of Soros as "the man who broke the Bank of England" is most compelling. Indeed, Kaufman has told a gripping tale and he has told it exceedingly well.

Dr. Morton I. Teicher is the founding dean of the Wurzwiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University and Dean Emeritus, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Milk, Honey & Vinegar

Terror takes priority over everything

By JUDY CARR

I was just planning an article on the hunger situation, mentioning a luxury pizzeria. I had bought a loaf to make myself a good sandwich when I heard the news about the bombed bus in Jerusalem.

"A lot dead, many wounded, the bus packed with school children," said the voice on the radio.

That drove pizza out of my

mind. What if we do have many problems in Israel, lack of equality, injustice? These horrors wipe them out of consciousness.

Kids going to school. Workers off to town. Mother has just seen the family off and is hastily preparing lunch before going off to her own work.

Then the horrifying news spreads. Jerusalemites are rushing to the hospitals or ringing

the municipality. Israelis with family in Jerusalem go mad.

It takes time to sort out the dead and wounded, who is who, the child, the wife, husband, mother. It will be hours before the truth is known.

The last numbers I hear on the radio as I write this article are 'Eighteen dead and 52 wounded.'

Is this enough for you?
Do you want any more?

Misconceptions

It takes 1 more day to be bar mitzvah

By REUVEN BULKA



Misconception: A boy attains the status of bar mitzvah at the age of 13.

A child becomes a bar mitzvah, one who is required to fulfill religious obligations, after reaching the age of 13 and having entered into the 14th year. It is specifically the

About Books

Women and the choices they made

By JACK FISCHER

An important book about Jewish women in 20th century Europe is *Female, Jewish, Educated: The Lives of Central European University Women* by



thor teaches history at Temple University in Pennsylvania. Indiana University Press (this month, \$34.95).

I.B. Tauris Publishers has released a paperback edition of *The Land Beyond Promise: Israel, Likud and the Zionist Dream* by Colin Shindler. This is the only book that I'm aware of that critically appraises the Likud both in and out of government. Shindler, who is a Fellow in Israeli Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, traces the party's ideology from Begin to Sharon and Netanyahu. (this month, npa)

Transaction Books recently published *The Claim of Dispossession: Jewish land-Settlement and the Arabs, 1878-1948*, by Arieh L. Avneri. Given the horrific situation between Israel and the Palestinians, this book is important as background for

understanding the refugee crisis that was probably at the heart of Arafat's refusal to accept Barak's peace plan at Camp David in September 2000. The author is a journalist and formerly on the editorial board of Davar (npa)

In December the University of Pittsburgh Press will publish *The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics: Bundism and Zionism in Eastern Europe*, edited by Zvi Gitelman. The book includes 13 essays by prominent historians, political scientists and professors of literature who discuss the cultural and political contexts of these movements.

Gitelman is the Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan and the author of *A Century of Ambivalence: The Jews of Russia and the Soviet Union, 1881 to the Present*.

Harriet Pass Freidenreich. The author combines a social historical analysis of Jewish university women before 1938, and the professional and family choices they made. The book also deals with the question of how religion influenced their lives, and how they were influenced by their gender. The au-

Book Reviews

Learn while you laugh

Review by JUDY CARR

Louis Brandeis Slept Here. By David Gleicher. Jerusalem and New York. Gefen Publishing House. 142 pp.

To purchase from Gefen www.israelbooks.com.

David Gleicher makes history come alive in a humorous way in his books and lectures. You would not think that a dry topic like the history of American Jews would make you roll around with laughter. But David Gleicher makes you chuckle as he talks about the first Jews in New

Amsterdam, the characters that came to America – and he does not stop making you laugh when he mentions the lack of observance among American Jews until the big immigration of the Orthodox.

Light, colorful, stylish, witty and entertaining, not only a laugh, but also educational. Behind the comedy is erudition and David Gleicher thoroughly knows his history.

Either for fun or for knowing your roots, an extremely worthwhile read.

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ANNOUNCING PUBLICATION

WHAT JEWS KNOW ABOUT

Salvation

by Rabbi Elliot B. Gertel

In times of fear, people seek comfort, purpose, and direction. We feel sadness and depression. We think about such issues as responsibility, error, guilt, forgiveness. We explore spiritual resources such as prayer and sacred scripture.

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These pages draw upon the world's longest continuous discussion of salvation, the precious traditions of Judaism, as preserved in the Hebrew Bible, the Talmud, the Midrash, and the Zohar (Kabbalistic commentary on the Bible). This book will inspire, comfort, and challenge readers of all faiths and backgrounds and show how "old-time religion" can help individuals and nations face both personal and social problems in order to build on the salvations which God has given us.



How to...
*Recognize Salvation

Salvation from...
*Fear
*Mistakes
*Depression

Salvation For...
*Children
*The Earth

Salvation Through...
*Peoplehood
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*Comfort
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Rabbi Gertel is an innovator in synagogue programming, author, historian, media critic, and spiritual leader of Congregation Rodfel Zedek, the distinguished Conservative synagogue on the South Side of Chicago.

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